

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

An image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing ~~at least one of~~ processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said system comprising:

an input/output unit that is able to capture the image data from the portable recording medium and the visible recording medium;

a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which ~~an~~ the input/output unit can be connected ~~the input/output unit able to capture said image data from one of said portable recording medium and/or said visible recording medium;~~

a command input unit for applying a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit;

a determination unit for determining whether the input/output unit has been connected to said input/output interface; and

a notification unit for giving notification that input/output of an image by an input/output unit connected to said input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been applied from said command input unit

and said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and for giving notification that an input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has not been connected.

Claim 2. (Original)

The system according to claim 1, wherein said command input unit is a verification unit for verifying that at least part of a user fee for using the image capture system has been paid.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended)

A method of controlling operation of an image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing ~~at least one of~~ processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which an input/output unit can be connected the input/output unit able to capture said image data from ~~one of~~ said portable recording medium and/or said visible recording medium;

detecting whether a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit has been applied;

determining whether the input/output unit has been connected to the input/output interface; and

giving notification that input/output of an image by an input/output unit connected to the input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been detected and it has been determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and giving notification that an input/output unit can be connected to the input/output interface when it has been determined that the input/output unit has not been connected.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented)

The system according to claim 1, further comprising selection means for selecting capturing image data from the image capture unit or capturing image data from the input/output unit when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected,

wherein said system captures image data in response to the selection by said selection means.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented)

The system according to claim 1, wherein said notification unit gives notification that an input/output unit can be connected to said input/output

interface, regardless of the use verification command given from said command input unit, when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has not been connected.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented)

The system according to claim 1, wherein said notification unit displays a sentence of notification on said display unit.

Claim 7. (New)

An image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said system comprising:

an input/output unit that is able to capture said image data from the visible recording medium;

a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which the input/output unit can be connected;

a command input unit for applying a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit;

a determination unit for determining whether the input/output unit has been connected to said input/output interface; and

a notification unit for giving notification that input/output of an image by an input/output unit connected to said input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been applied from said command input unit and said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and for giving notification that an input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has not been connected.